

SCPD EMPLOYMENT FIRST OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
MARCH 13, 2018
SMYRNA REST AREA, SMYRNA

Present: Lloyd Schmitz, Chair, Council on Blind/SCPD; Dale Matusevich, DOE; Jackeline Saez-Rosario, Advocate; Ron Sarg, DCVA/MOAA; Despina Wilson, IRI; John McNeal (via phone), SCPD; and Amber Rivard, Support Staff.

Absent: Deb Bradl, DHSS; Emmanuel Jenkins, DDC; Julie Petroff, DOL-Division of Industrial Affairs (DIA); Sandy Reyes, Department of Human Resources; Pat Maichle, DDC; Cindy Sterling, ServiceSource/AND; Laura Strmel, SJCS; and Laura Waterland, DLP-CLASI.

Guest: Erin Goldner, Hope Street Delaware

CALL TO ORDER/Introductions/Approval of December 2017 and January 2018 Minutes

Lloyd called the meeting to order at 9:54 am. Everyone introduced themselves. Due to lack of quorum, the December 2017 and January 2018 minutes were not approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Lloyd asked how Erin wants Hope Street Delaware to blend into what the Commission does. Erin clarified that Hope Street Delaware is a recovery advocacy group in Delaware. They are working on becoming a non-profit, to apply for local, state and federal grants. The main focus is on the heroin epidemic and working closely with other advocacy programs in Delaware. She added that they are reaching out to the New Castle County Police Department. Hope Street wants to provide a long term sober living community. She reached out to the Commission in hopes of blending it with Hope Street to train the recovery advocacy group and obtain long-term employment with a retirement plan that helps individuals with their self-esteem. Lloyd stated that there may not be any current vacancies in the Commission for Erin to join as a member. Erin added that she will discuss with John McNeal about reaching out to other agencies in how all of the committees link together.

Lloyd suggested that the Commission discuss about other locations for their meetings in order to have video conferencing so that the members over video conferencing can count as a quorum. There was suggested locations to have future meetings for the Commission such as the DelDOT Administration Building in Dover, libraries in the Kent or New Castle County or the location of DHSS room. Lloyd suggested that John, Jo or Amber explore more locations for future EFOC meetings.

BUSINESS

Capacity Building

Lloyd had no new updates from Marissa on capacity building. She met with a group that could help with capacity building of DDDS and said that it might tie in with this Commission. Dale

added that March 19, 2018 is when they are receiving the data from that group. Lloyd asked Dale to contact Marissa and email Lloyd any new updates to the topic of capacity building.

Employment First Annual Report

The Commission needs additional information added to the Report. Dale is working on gathering his information from DOE. Lloyd volunteered to contact Andrea Guest and DVI for their updates. John provided the Commission members with a mission statement and how the goals are being achieved for a more firm agenda and legislation. Lloyd suggested that members can work on how the Commission can achieve the goals of the mission statement.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale commented that the Commission needs to vote for approval to change H.B 319 for the Commission membership increase. It will go into effect as soon as it is changed in Legislative Hall and when the Governor signs it.

Ron stated that he visited a transition function for military spouses. That is one way of transitioning groups into supported employment. He added that LinkedIn could help with Hope Street Delaware and what kind of employability is available. Erin commented that there is educational barriers that some individuals in the program have to overcome. She added that there are training programs that assist individuals in overcoming their educational barriers statewide in libraries. Lloyd suggested that Erin should browse the Selective Placement located in this link: www.jobs.de.gov. It is designed for individuals with disabilities to give them an opportunity in working with State Government employment positions. John commented that individuals with substances abuse could apply for Selective Placement and be qualified for employment. He added that he will gather more information about Selective Placement and how it operates. Lloyd suggested that over the next few months that him and John should work to strengthen the program through the Delaware Code. John clarified that one of the priorities of the Commission is to reach out to the agencies for employment for individuals with disabilities. The Commission could ask how they are utilizing the Selective Placement and how they can progress in employing people with disabilities.

Ron asked for clarification if there is legislation on allowing tax credits for employers. Dale clarified that it is called Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC). Lloyd added that there is also Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Division of Visually Impaired (DVI) are aware of the tax credit. It is unclear if they are being utilized or not. Lloyd asked John if the Commission has the ability to send out a distribution to the State or to the direct agencies in reminding them of the Selective Placement Program opportunity and the tax credit to assist in individuals with disabilities that are seeking employment. Erin read over the mission statement of the Commission that John emailed. The mission of the Commission is to ensure that the State agencies follow and implement the Employment First Act for people with disabilities to become integrated into competitive employment work setting by working with State agencies to review

policies and procedures with funding representing the implementation of the Employment First Act, track and report on the progress of those agencies in reaching measurable goals and objectives related to the Act, identifying barriers in achieving goals and objectives then find strategies to overcome those barriers. Lloyd suggested that he and Amber could come up with a distribution to send out to all State agencies.

Lloyd discussed with the Commission about the legislative changes and moving it forward. He suggested John's office contact the FOIA person in their department to see if the Commission can approve it via email and move it forward. It has been out there for public review and has been posted on the public calendar. John will contact Representative Heffernan to check the language of the legislation. Jackie commented that Laura Waterland suggested some language and wanted clarification if that made it to Lloyd and John. Lloyd clarified that it was discussed and added into their draft legislation on membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Madrid is no longer with the Commission and has moved to State Treasurer Office. John had sent an email to the Secretary's Office asking her to appoint someone new to represent DHSS at this Commission.

John stated that the State Council for Persons with Disabilities is working on legislation that would allow individuals with disabilities and members of the SCPD to call in and be counted as quorum through the phone. Victoria Counihan is drafting legislation for review at the next Full Council meeting with further discussion on how to proceed with this legislation. Several legislators will be contacted to sponsor the legislation.

John stated there was discussion that the time for the Commission meetings be moved up to 10 or 10:30 am until noon. Dale added that it could make a difference to a Commission members that has to travel farther. A suggestion was made to email the Commission about changing the time of the meetings and what their opinions are on the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Rivard
Administrative Specialist